

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167938

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 LINE 1 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: EXPANDED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN CENTO ACTIVITIES
1. AT MEETING ON JUNE 27 (SEPTTEL) SECRETARY TOLD CENTO
SECRETARY GENERAL GURUN THAT THE U.S. HAD DECIDED TO SEEK
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPROVE-
MENT OF THE CENTO HIGH FREQUENCY MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEMS ON A SHARED BASIS. SECRETARY NOTED THAT IRAN
HAD ALREADY AGREED TO PAY ITS SHARE (AT THE MARCH MILITARY
COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON). GURUN SAID DIFFERENT
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SYSTEMS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED, INCLUDING ONE INVOLVING
SATELLITE LINK. SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD BE WILLING TO
EXAMINE WHATEVER PREFERRED SYSTEM IS PUT FORWARD.

2. SECRETARY ALSO SAID WE HAD DECIDED TO STEP UP OUR
EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE ON THE SECURITY OF THE CENTO REGION
AND ALSO TO IMPROVE OUR ANALYTICAL ASSISTANCE. IN LATER

SEPARATE CONVERSATION, GURUN COMMENTED TO COUNSELOR NIMET/ THAT CAUTION AND LACK OF SENIORITY LIMITED THE VALUE OF PRESENT INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE IN CENTO. GURUN STRONGLY RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL EXCHANGE, PERHAPS AT THE DEPUTY SECGEN LEVEL, WHERE THERE IS LIKELY TO BE MORE POLITICAL AWARENESS AND CANDOR.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY ABOVE DECISIONS TO NEXT COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING, ASKING COUNCIL TO DEVISE AN EQUITABLE PERCENTAGE FOR EACH MEMBER TO PAY. DEPUTIES COULD THEN SUBMIT THEIR RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL FOR APPROVAL. (FYI: WE ENVISION U.S. AND IRAN BEARING A MAJOR PORTION OF THE COST WITH MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE UK, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY).

4. THE U.S. CONCEPT PLAN DEVELOPED IN 1976 AND FORWARDED TO THE CENTO COMBINED MILITARY PLANNING STAFF COULD BE USED AS A BASIC REFERENCE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION REVALIDATION OF CIRCUIT REQUIREMENTS AND INFLATIONARY IMPACT ON ORIGINAL COST ESTIMATES OF ABOUT U.S. \$5 MILLION. IF PRO RATA SHARING FORMULA IS AGREED TO, PERMANENT MILITARY DEPUTIES GROUP/COMBINED MILITARY PLANNING STAFF COULD BE TASKED BY THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES TO SELECT THE DESIRED EXTENT OF UPGRADING FROM THE U.S. STUDY, WITHIN MONETARY RESTRICTIONS APPROVED, AND TO COORDINATE WITH THE U.S. ON INITIATING THE NEXT PHASE
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OF THE COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADING.

5. THE SECRETARY HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SEEK ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR U.S. SHARE UNDER MAP AS PART OF THE FY 1980 SECURITY ASSISTANCE BUDGET.

6. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE AT DEPUTY SECGEN LEVEL AS SUGGESTED BY GURUN. IN THE MEANWHILE, WE ARE EXPLORING WHETHER THERE ARE NATO INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE MECHANISMS WHICH WE COULD CONSIDER EMULATING IN CENTO.
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